

REMARKS

Applicants affirm the election with traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-10, as discussed during a telephone conference on 10/15/2004. Non-elected claims are withdrawn.

Applicants have added new claims 33, dependent from claim 1, and 34, dependent from claim 2.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,654,892 to Karim.

Karim discloses only a system for sending documents from one side of a firewall to another. It accomplishes this by attaching the document to emails.

Karim fails, entirely, to disclose the system of the present invention where, as shown in Fig. 4, device information about a digital complex machine (30) is sent as an attachment of an email to a head office (E) and a PC (11a). The nature of the sender of the email, the information attached to the email, the recipient of the email, and the purpose itself of the email are all completely distinct from those disclosed in Karim.

The present invention, in contrast to Karim, sends device information to a managing device via electric mail in the form of attached data. That is, an electric mail containing attached data is sent to the managing device.

The present invention further allows for additional processing of the attached data. For example, of the device information to be sent to the managing device, some of said device information may be information that is confidential and which should not be accessible to a third party. The present invention allows for the encryption of such device information to ensure confidentiality. Karim fails to address this issue of confidentiality and encryption.

Further, the present invention allows for compression of the attached data, and for the attached data to be generated and readable only by a dedicated program.

Karim fails to consider any such further/additional processing of the attached data sent by an information communication device to a managing device.

In short, Karim appears to be unrelated to the present invention to such an extent that any comparison therebetween lacks meaning. Karim does not anticipate nor suggest the present invention.

Applicants gratefully note that the claim of priority and receipt of the priority documents are acknowledged.

Applicants also submit herewith a supplemental Information Disclosure Statement making two new patents of record, together with the requisite fee under 37 CFR 1.17(p).

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending claims patentably distinguish over the art of record and this application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

By  _____

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